

HANDOUT 2.5 – GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW FOR ZONAL PLANS

General guidelines to develop a workable zoning plan:

- ⇒ Keep the zoning scheme as simple and understandable as possible for users
- ⇒ Try to minimize interfering with customary uses and rights
- ⇒ Make sure that users – boaters, fishers, divers, anglers, villagers, and so on – are consulted before any implementation of zonation
- ⇒ If prohibiting an existing use from one zone, make provisions for that use in another zone – do not completely eliminate existing uses from a MPA zoned for multiple use
- ⇒ Avoid sudden transitions of use in adjacent zones – for instance, a strict conservation zone should not go next to a general use zone
- ⇒ Incorporate a range of linked habitats in resource protection zones
- ⇒ Where possible, use natural attributes such as a reef or an island to delineate zones
- ⇒ Be consistent with neighboring coastal areas; zoning should complement other management regimes in the region
- ⇒ Be consistent with existing fisheries closures and navigation zones